

FL Winter Resolution 1
2019/New
Wildlife Migration Corridors

WHEREAS, wildlife migration corridors are receiving increased attention and advocacy from conservation groups as a landscape-scale tool for wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2018, Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362 titled "Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors" (hereafter "the Order"), and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Order is to "improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on Federal lands under the management jurisdiction of this Department [DOI] in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species and respects private property rights," and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Order outlines the need to work with landowners to improve such corridors "through voluntary agreements" while also directing staff to "review and use the best available science to inform development of specific guidelines for the Department's lands and waters," a clear reference to land use plans, and

WHEREAS, Section 4(a)(3) directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Park Service (NPS) to assess the sufficiency of existing land use plans to accomplish the purpose of the Order and develop an "Action Plan that summarizes information collected" and establishes a "clear direction forward" which includes "habitat management goals" and "measurable outcomes," both of which typically result in inappropriate restrictions on grazing and ranching activities, and

WHEREAS, the cumulative result of the Order is prioritization of big-game habitat conservation and restoration over other multiple-uses on federal lands, which is contradictory to the statutory multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of the BLM, which will consequently result in inappropriate impacts to adjacent private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NCBA primarily support rescission of Secretarial Order 3362,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, secondarily and short of a full rescission of the Order, NCBA urge the DOI to clearly define the role of nongovernmental organizations and associations in the coordination process outlined in Section 4(a)(1) of the Order to clarify that only affected parties or those who possess relevant site-specific knowledge be allowed to participate,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA oppose inclusion of additional habitat management goals, measurable outcomes, wildlife management, or wildlife habitat conservation and restoration activities in land use plans as a result of this Order,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NCBA urge that any policy or guidance issued by DOI during implementation of the Order be consistent with all relevant state and local statutes, plans, and regulations, including but not limited to the multiple-use and sustained yield mandate, open range laws, legal fence construction and maintenance requirements, wildlife management plans, or functional equivalents.